

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 8, 17, and 19. No claims have been cancelled or added. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 11, 14, and 17 are the only independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent application pub. no. 2002/0068587 by Chapman ("Chapman"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and believes that the claimed invention is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Chapman.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 14, is a user information retrieval device and an associated method for retrieving information from a remote database in an information retrieval system based on position coordinates of the user information retrieval device. The user information retrieval device includes a positioning system, a transmitter, a receiver, and a user interface. The positioning system unit is configured for determining the position coordinates of the user information retrieval device. The transmitter is configured for transmitting the position coordinates to a remote computer over a wireless network. The receiver is configured for receiving information from the remote computer over the wireless network wherein the received information relates to one or more geographical sites within a given distance from the position coordinates of the user information retrieval device. The user interface is configured for providing the received information to a user.

The claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 11 and 17, is a remote computer and an associated method for retrieving information from one or more remote databases in an information retrieval system based on position coordinates of a user information retrieval device in response to receiving position coordinates from at least one user information retrieval device. The remote computer includes a receiver, a processor, and a transmitter. The receiver is configured for receiving the position coordinates from at least one user information retrieval device over a wireless network. The processor is configured for retrieving information related to one or more geographical sites from one or more databases based on the position coordinates. The transmitter is configured for transmitting the information to the user information retrieval device which sent the position coordinates of the user information retrieval device over the wireless network.

2. Chapman

Chapman teaches a method and apparatus for special alert response and monitoring which include a personal subscriber unit (PSU) (100) operating in a two-way communication system (170). With reference to paragraphs 3-5 and 12 and FIGS. 1-3 of Chapman, a scheduled alert is activated at the PSU (step 202). The PSU itself may provide the scheduled alert or the scheduled alert may be activated by the PSU receiving a signal from a remote central base controller (150) that was programmed at the request of the PSU user. The PSU then may optionally calculate location data of the PSU and may optionally transmit it to the controller (step 204). In response to the scheduled alert, a reply from the PSU user is waited on by the controller for a predetermined period of time (step 206). If no response is received from the PSU user (step 214), then the controller can dispatch assistance to the PSU user using the location data (step 222).

3. The Claimed Invention Compared to Chapman

The claimed invention generally differs from Chapman as information related to a geographical site within a given distance from the position coordinates of the user's

information retrieval device (i.e., geographical site information based on the position coordinates of the user's device) is provided to the user's device over a wireless network. Chapman does not teach or suggest providing geographical site information based on the location of the PSU over a wireless network to the PSU. Although Chapman may teach providing scheduled alerts to the PSU over a wireless network, such scheduled alerts appear to be based on time and not on location of the PSU (see paragraphs 10-12 of Chapman) and do not involve geographical site information based on the location of the PSU.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 11, 14, and 17 patentably distinguish over Chapman. Claims 2-10, 12-13, 15-16, and 18-19 depend from one of the independent claims and include the limitations therein. Accordingly, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

CONCLUSION

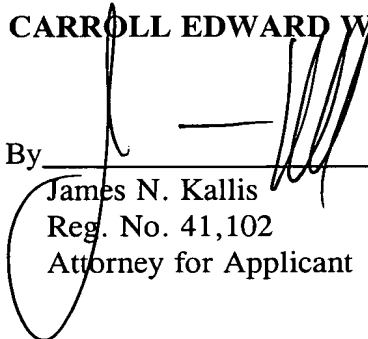
In summary, claims 1-19, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 30, 2003

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